

Identification Notes

for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: BIRD

Scientific Name/s: *Galliformes*

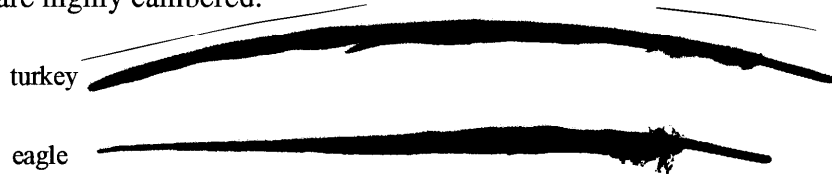
Common Name/s: galliforms

Recognizing the wing flight feathers of Turkey and Peafowl

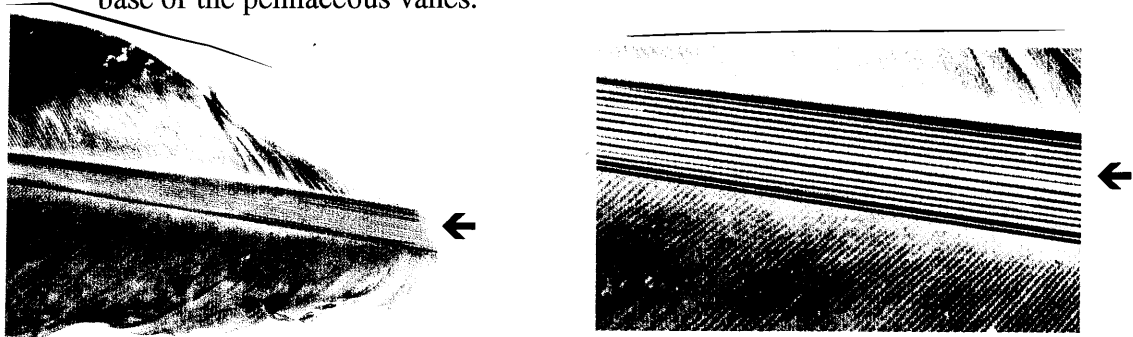
The large wing flight feathers of Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) are used as adornment to crafts, often as substitutes for eagle feathers. These galliform feathers may be confused with the flight feathers of swans, cranes, herons, pelicans, and raptors.

Close examination will distinguish Turkey and Peafowl feathers from the feathers of protected species. The following three characteristics are apparent on the wing flight feathers of Turkey and Peafowl and are visible whether the feather is natural (white or patterned) or dyed.

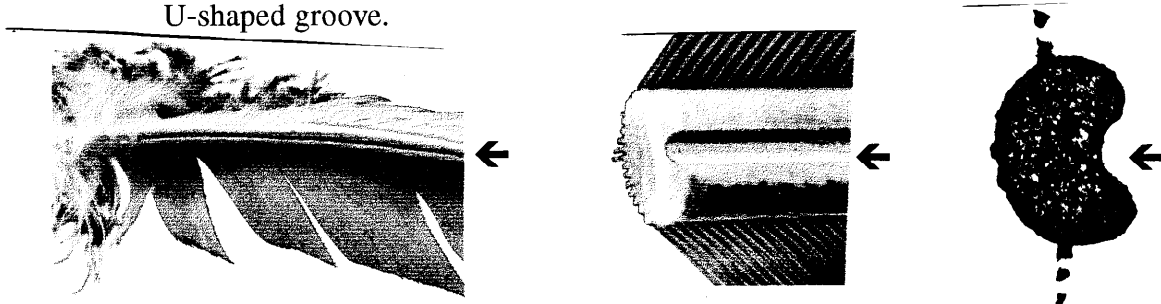
- 1) The feathers are highly cambered.



- 2) The upper surface of the rachis on galliform feathers has longitudinal lines, parallel to the length of the rachis. These lines are particularly visible at the base of the pennaceous vanes.



- 3) The undersurface of the rachis on galliform feathers has a strongly U-shaped groove.



REFERENCE: Sabo, BA. 1996. Feather morphology. Identification Note B-96-1, National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory, Ashland, Oregon.
Identification Notes and other Lab information available at:
<http://www.lab.fws.gov/for-lab.htm>